n wage payment and non-issuance of job card. The details of these complaints and action taken hereon by the Ministry are available on the Website www. nrega. nic. in under the heading 'complaints". CAG in its draft report on the performance audit of 68 phase I NREGA districts of 26 States for 2006-07 has also made some observations in this regard. Comments of the State governments on these observations have been obtained and sent to CAG for finalisation of its eport. Unemployment allowance becomes payable under the Act if a job seeker is not provided employment within 15 days of receipt of application seeking employment or from the date on which employment has been sought in the case of an advance application, whichever is later. As per reports received from Government of Orissa, unemployment allowance has been paid in some blocks of Bolangir, Kalahandi and Nawarangpur districts.

(c) State Government of Orissa is charging royalty under a State Act.

Statement

Details of funds released by Central Government and cumulative utilization of funds as on 31.12.07

Release during 2007-08 (Rs. In lakh)

Name of State	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total up December 07	Cumulative expenditure as on 31 12 07
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Chhattisgarh	5546 49	22511 95	13090 01	7338 00	7576 73	5759 62	4141 27	11572 62	4674 48	82211 17	63618 82
Orissa	3657 11	13181 57	10267 05	2402 35	3059 00	643 61	2552 00	1000 00	2500 00	39262 69	36766 06
West Bengal	3159 23	10865 97	45207 68	5403 00	8000 00	0 00	2000 00	2500 00	3000 00	80135 88	45022 6

Improving quality of roads under PMGSY

†3222. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 63 per cent work of Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojana has been found unsatisfactory during inspection;

(b) if so, the details of steps taken by Government for improvement of the quality of construction of roads after coming for the above facts into light; and

(c) the details of mechanism to fix accountability for monitoring the quality of construction of Roads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) So far up to December, 2007, 45065 works taken up under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) have been inspected by National Quality Monitors (NQMs), out of which 8978 works (20%) were found unsatisfactory.

(b) and (c) Observations of National Quality Monitors are handed over to the Programme Implementation Units (PIUs) in the State immediately after inspection for taking appropriate action. The action taken reports (ATRs) are prepared and sent to the National Rural Roads Development Agency (NRRDA) through State Quality Coordinator. If defects in the work are rectified and the action of rectification is verified by independent quality monitors in

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the subsequent inspections, the 'Unsatisfactory' grading of the work is improved to 'Satisfactory' grading. National Rural Roads Development Agency (NRRDA) monitors the submission of ATRs. The State Government are to take appropriate action against the concerned officers and the contractors, if the defects observed by Quality Monitors are of non-rectifiable nature.

Technology to ensure effective implementation of Central Schemes

3223. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to State:

(a) whether his Ministry is initiating measures to evolve technologies which ensure effective implementation of Central schemes and to ensure transparency;

(b) if so, whether the use of smart card/chip which the Government of Andhra Pradesh is using to implement NREGA is being considered to make use on large scale;

(c) if so, the details containing the introduction of technology to assess the implementation of schemes; and

(d) if not, the reasons for not taking measures to bring transparency and not considering the break through made in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) With a view to ensure implementation and transparency, Web-based information on all the Central schemes are kept in public domain. For National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) and Social Security Pension (SSP) Schemes, smart card/chip technology was used in Andhra Pradesh as a pilot project in 8 mandals of Warangal and Karimnagar districts. It has been decided to launch this technology on a larger scale to cover the entire State of Andhra Pradesh in a phased manner. For this purpose, this technology will equally be useful for other banking services like savings, credit, deposits etc.

(d) Does not arise.

Extending financial support to ICRISAT

3224. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Biotechnology is extending financial support to International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) for the setting up a Centre for Excellence in Genomics;

(b) what benefits the said ICRISAT Centre would provide to the country and out agricultural universities;

(c) whether any of our agricultural scientists would be imparted training at the said Centre and in which all areas the research would be focused;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has sanctioned a "Centre of Excellence